

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN AUGUST 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in August was 2.64 million metric tons (Mt), which was 16% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Cumulative production for the first 8 months of 2004 was 9% higher than the same period in 2003.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in August decreased by 8% from 3.21 Mt in July to 2.97 Mt. Phosphate rock sold or used for January to August was 4% higher in comparison with the same period in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of August decreased by 4% from those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition, Census trade data are not available for the current

month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock will average about 200,000 tons per month in 2004. Initial estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be 38.5 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates. Apparent domestic consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt.

The decreases in the production and use of phosphate were caused by hurricane Charley, which passed through the Central Florida phosphate region in August. Mining was curtailed in advance of the storm and associated power outages hampered processing. The hurricane also damaged several mines and fertilizer plants.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
January-August	18,800	3,450	22,200	19,700	3,530	23,200	XX	XX	XX
August	2,480	628	3,110	2,750	483	3,230	5,530	2,050	7,570
September	2,550	415	2,970	2,610	405	3,010	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430	3,080	2,720	369	3,090	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348	2,800	2,610	496	3,100	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	335	3,060	2,660	424	3,080	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	343	2,920	2,420	454	2,870	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200	2,550	434	2,980	5,750	1,720	7,470
April	2,600	335	2,940	2,640	415	3,050	5,720	1,640	7,360
May	2,700	525	3,220	2,720	384	3,110	5,680	1,780	7,460
June	2,550	524	3,070	2,470	338	2,800	5,750	1,840	7,590
July	2,700	435	3,130	2,810	396	3,210	5,750	1,880	7,630
August	2,120	526	2,640	2,480	489	2,970	5,430	1,920	7,340
Total	20,800	3,360	24,200	20,700	3,330	24,100	XX	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
January-August	833	29,900
August	144	5,750
September	130	4,990
October	63	1,690
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,210	43,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,400	84,000
2004: <sup>4</sup>		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
March	145	5,580
April	28	760
May	180	6,650
June	146	5,700
July	63	1,720
Total	836	30,000

<sup>1</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2002	2003	2004 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	31.2
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	5.0
Total <sup>2</sup>	36.1	34.1	36.3
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	31.1
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.0
Total <sup>2</sup>	34.7	35.4	36.1
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.3
Exports	(3) <sup>4</sup>	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.7	2.4	2.4
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 5</sup>	37.4	37.8	38.5

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

<sup>4</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>5</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.